

Attorney's Docket No. K&A 23-0390

APPLICATION

FOR UNITED STATES LETTERS PATENT

SPECIFICATION

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

BE IT KNOWN THAT I, **WAYNE TJEERDSMA**, a citizen of
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have invented a new and useful
TOOL STORAGE DEVICE of which the following is a
specification:

TOOL STORAGE DEVICE

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

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Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to tool holders and more particularly pertains to a new tool storage device for selectively retaining a tool against a structure.

Description of the Prior Art

The use of tool holders is known in the prior art. More specifically, tool holders heretofore devised and utilized are known to consist basically of familiar, expected and obvious structural configurations, notwithstanding the myriad of designs encompassed by the crowded prior art which have been developed for the fulfillment of countless objectives and requirements.

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While these devices fulfill their respective, particular objectives and requirements, the aforementioned patents do not disclose a new tool storage device. The inventive device includes a mounting assembly, a first jaw assembly, and a second jaw assembly. The mounting assembly is for selectively coupling the system to a vertical surface of a structure. The first jaw assembly is operationally coupled to the mounting assembly, and is designed for abutting a first side of the handle of the tool being retained. The second jaw assembly is pivotally coupled to the mounting

assembly, and is designed for abutting a second side of the handle of the tool being retained. The handle is selectively retained between the first jaw assembly and the second jaw assembly.

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In these respects, the tool storage device according to the present invention substantially departs from the conventional concepts and designs of the prior art, and in so doing provides an apparatus primarily developed for the purpose of selectively retaining a tool against a structure.

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In view of the foregoing disadvantages inherent in the known types of tool holders now present in the prior art, the present invention provides a new tool storage device construction wherein the same can be utilized for selectively retaining a tool against a structure.

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The general purpose of the present invention, which will be described subsequently in greater detail, is to provide a new tool storage device apparatus and method which has many of the advantages of the tool holders mentioned heretofore and many novel features that result in a new tool storage device which is not anticipated, rendered obvious, suggested, or even implied by any of the prior art tool holders, either alone or in any combination thereof.

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To attain this, the present invention generally comprises a mounting assembly, a first jaw assembly, and a second jaw assembly. The mounting assembly is for selectively coupling the system to a vertical surface of a structure. The first jaw assembly

is operationally coupled to the mounting assembly, and is designed for abutting a first side of the handle of the tool being retained. The second jaw assembly is pivotally coupled to the mounting assembly, and is designed for abutting a second side of the handle of the tool being retained. The handle is selectively retained between the first jaw assembly and the second jaw assembly.

Throughout this specification the tool holding system is described in the context of retaining a handle of a tool, for the sake of simplicity in explanation of the operation of the device. However, the present invention anticipates being used in conjunction with a wide range of tools and in multiple configurations. Therefore it is possible, and indeed likely that the present invention will be used to retain tools without "handles" by retaining the bodies, housings, or other elements of the tool. Additionally, the present device can be used with coiled tools such as extension cords, lariats, cables, hoses, or other such tools.

There has thus been outlined, rather broadly, the more important features of the invention in order that the detailed description thereof that follows may be better understood, and in order that the present contribution to the art may be better appreciated. There are additional features of the invention that will be described hereinafter and which will form the subject matter of the claims appended hereto.

In this respect, before explaining at least one embodiment of the invention in detail, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited in its application to the details of construction and to the arrangements of the components set forth in the following description or illustrated in the drawings. The invention is capable

of other embodiments and of being practiced and carried out in various ways. Also, it is to be understood that the phraseology and terminology employed herein are for the purpose of description and should not be regarded as limiting.

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As such, those skilled in the art will appreciate that the conception, upon which this disclosure is based, may readily be utilized as a basis for the designing of other structures, methods and systems for carrying out the several purposes of the present 10 invention. It is important, therefore, that the claims be regarded as including such equivalent constructions insofar as they do not depart from the spirit and scope of the present invention.

Further, the purpose of the foregoing abstract is to enable the 15 U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and the public generally, and especially the scientists, engineers and practitioners in the art who are not familiar with patent or legal terms or phraseology, to determine quickly from a cursory inspection the nature and essence 20 of the technical disclosure of the application. The abstract is neither intended to define the invention of the application, which is measured by the claims, nor is it intended to be limiting as to the scope of the invention in any way.

It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide a 25 new tool storage device apparatus and method which has many of the advantages of the tool holders mentioned heretofore and many novel features that result in a new tool storage device which is not anticipated, rendered obvious, suggested, or even implied by any of the prior art tool holders, either alone or in any combination 30 thereof.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a new tool storage device which may be easily and efficiently manufactured and marketed.

5 It is a further object of the present invention to provide a new tool storage device which is of a durable and reliable construction.

An even further object of the present invention is to provide a new tool storage device which is susceptible of a low cost of manufacture with regard to both materials and labor, and which accordingly is then susceptible of low prices of sale to the consuming public, thereby making such tool storage device economically available to the buying public.

15 Still yet another object of the present invention is to provide a new tool storage device which provides in the apparatuses and methods of the prior art some of the advantages thereof, while simultaneously overcoming some of the disadvantages normally associated therewith.

20 Still another object of the present invention is to provide a new tool storage device for selectively retaining a tool against a structure.

25 Yet another object of the present invention is to provide a new tool storage device which includes a mounting assembly, a first jaw assembly, and a second jaw assembly. The mounting assembly is for selectively coupling the system to a vertical surface of a structure. The first jaw assembly is operationally coupled to the 30 mounting assembly, and is designed for abutting a first side of the handle of the tool being retained. The second jaw assembly is pivotally coupled to the mounting assembly, and is designed for

abutting a second side of the handle of the tool being retained. The handle is selectively retained between the first jaw assembly and the second jaw assembly.

5 These together with other objects of the invention, along with the various features of novelty which characterize the invention, are pointed out with particularity in the claims annexed to and forming a part of this disclosure. For a better understanding of the invention, its operating advantages and the specific objects attained
10 by its uses, reference should be made to the accompanying drawings and descriptive matter in which there are illustrated preferred embodiments of the invention.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

15 The invention will be better understood and objects other than those set forth above will become apparent when consideration is given to the following detailed description thereof. Such description makes reference to the annexed drawings wherein:

20 Figure 1 is a schematic perspective exploded view of a new tool storage device according to the present invention.

25 Figure 2 is a schematic perspective rear view of the present invention.

Figure 3 is a schematic rear view of the present invention.

30 Figure 4 is a schematic perspective front view of the present invention.

Figure 5 is a schematic perspective rear view of an embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 6 is a schematic rear view of an embodiment of the present invention.

5 Figure 7 is a schematic top view of the present invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

With reference now to the drawings, and in particular to
10 Figures 1 through 7 thereof, a new tool storage device embodying the principles and concepts of the present invention and generally designated by the reference numeral 10 will be described.

As best illustrated in Figures 1 through 7, the tool storage
15 device 10 generally comprises a mounting assembly 20, a first jaw assembly 40, and a second jaw assembly 50.

The mounting assembly 20 is for selectively coupling the system 10 to a vertical surface of a structure 6. The first jaw
20 assembly 40 is operationally coupled to the mounting assembly 20, and is designed for abutting a first side of the handle 4 of the tool 2 being retained. The second jaw 50 assembly is pivotally coupled to the mounting assembly 20, and is designed for abutting a second side of the handle 4 of the tool 2 being retained. The handle 4 is
25 selectively retained between the first jaw assembly 40 and the second jaw assembly 50.

In an embodiment the mounting assembly 20 further comprises a first mounting member 21 and a second mounting member 31.
30 The first mounting member 21 includes a first flange portion 22 and a first horizontal support portion 23. The first flange portion 22 is

for abutting the vertical surface of the structure 6. The first horizontal support portion 23 is coupled to the first flange portion 22. The first flange portion 22 includes a top surface 28 defining a plane. The first horizontal support portion 23 includes a first surface 29 defining a first horizontal plane. The first support horizontal portion 23 is preferably positioned such that the first horizontal plane is substantially perpendicular to the plane formed by the top surface 28. Similarly, the second mounting member 31 also includes a second flange portion 32 and a second horizontal support portion 33. The second flange portion 32 is for abutting the vertical surface of the structure 6. The second horizontal support portion 33 is coupled to the second flange portion 32. The second flange portion 32 includes a second top surface 38 defining a second plane. The second horizontal support portion 33 includes a second surface 39 defining a second horizontal plane. The second horizontal support portion 33 is preferably positioned such that the second horizontal plane being substantially perpendicular to the second plane formed by the second top surface 38.

In a further embodiment, the first flange portion 22 includes an aperture 24 extending therethrough, which facilitates coupling the first flange portion 22 to the surface of the structure 6. Similarly, the second flange portion 32 includes a second aperture 34 extending therethrough. The second aperture 34 facilitates coupling the second flange portion 32 to the surface of the structure 6.

In still a further embodiment, the first horizontal support portion 23 includes a proximal end 25 and a distal end 26. The proximal end 25 is adjacent to the first flange portion 22, and the

distal end 26 is adjacent to the first jaw assembly 40. The first horizontal support portion 23 includes a taper 27 extending from a medial portion towards the distal end 26. The distal end 26 includes a width less than a width associated with the medial portion. The 5 taper 27 permits pivoting of the second jaw assembly 50 with respect to the mounting assembly 20. Similarly, the second horizontal support portion 33 also includes a proximal end 35 and a distal end 36. The proximal end 35 is adjacent to the second flange portion 32. The distal end 36 is adjacent to the first jaw assembly 10 40. The second horizontal support portion 33 includes a taper 37 extending from a medial portion towards the distal end 36. The distal end 36 includes a width less than a width associated with the medial portion. The taper 37 permits pivoting of the second jaw assembly 50 with respect to the mounting assembly 20.

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In yet a further embodiment the first jaw assembly 40 further comprises a horizontal portion 41 and a vertical portion 42. The horizontal portion 41 is operationally coupled to the mounting assembly 20. The vertical portion 42 is operationally coupled to the 20 horizontal portion 41. The horizontal 41 and vertical portions 42 are for abutting the handle 4 to the tool 2 being retained.

In an embodiment the mounting assembly 20 has an angular notch 30 for receiving the horizontal portion 41 and the vertical portion 42 of the first jaw assembly 40. The angular notch 30 increases a surface area of contact between the mounting assembly 25 20 and the first jaw assembly 40 to strengthen a union of the mounting assembly 20 and the first jaw assembly 40.

In a further embodiment the angular notch 30 is positioned in the mounting assembly 20 such that a first portion of the angular notch 30 has an axis oriented approximately fifteen degrees from vertical, the angular notch 30 also has a second portion positioned at a right angle to the first portion of the angular notch 30.

In even still a further embodiment the second jaw assembly 50 further comprises a coupling portion 51, a lever portion 60, a width adjustment portion 66, and a retaining portion. The coupling portion 51 is pivotally couplable to the mounting assembly 20. The lever portion 60 is coupled to the coupling portion 51 and extends downwardly from the coupling portion 51. The lever portion 60 provides a clamping force for retaining the handle 4 of the tool 2. The width adjustment portion 66 is slidably coupled to the lever portion 60 and facilitates adjustment of the second jaw assembly 50 to accommodate a diameter of the handle 4 of the tool 2 being retained. The retaining assembly is for slideably coupling the width adjustment portion 66 to the lever portion 60.

In an embodiment the coupling portion 51 further comprises a horizontal member 52, a first tab portion 53, and a second tab portion 54. The horizontal member 52 extends between the first support portion 23 and the second support portion 33. The first tab portion 53 extends rearwardly from the horizontal member 52 adjacent to the first support portion 23. The first tab portion 53 facilitates pivotal coupling of the second jaw assembly 50 to the mounting assembly 20. Similarly, the second tab portion 54 also extends rearwardly from the horizontal member 52 adjacent to the second support portion 33. The second tab portion 54 facilitates pivotal coupling of the second jaw assembly 50 to the mounting

assembly 20. A first coupling hole 45 may extend through the first support portion 23. A second coupling hole 62 may extend through the first tab portion 52. The second coupling hole 62 is aligned with the first coupling hole 45. A third coupling 46 hole 5 may extend through the second support portion 33. A fourth coupling hole 56 may extend through the second tab portion 54. The fourth coupling hole 54 is aligned with the third coupling hole 46. Preferably, a single bolt 47 extends through the first 45, second 55, third 46 and fourth coupling holes 56. The bolt 47 is secured with 10 an associated nut 48.

In an embodiment the second hole 55 is offset from a center of the first tab portion 53 and the fourth hole 56 is offset from a center of the second tab portion 54.

15 In an embodiment the coupling means and the second coupling means further comprises a single pin 47 extending through the first 45, second 55, third 46, and fourth coupling holes 56. The pin 47 may be secured either by a cotter pin 43, a grip ring 44, or any 20 other suitable device.

In a further embodiment, each one of a pair of biasing members 75 is operationally coupled between the second jaw assembly 50 and the mounting assembly 20. Each one of the pair of 25 biasing members 75 urges the second jaw member 50 towards a closed portion. Thus, the handle 4 of the tool 2 is retained.

In an embodiment, a first, second and third biasing member 75 are operationally coupled between the second jaw assembly 50 and 30 the mounting assembly 20. Each one of said first, second, and third

biasing members 75 urge the second jaw assembly 50 towards a closed position. Thus, the handle 4 of the tool 2 is retained. Most preferably, the first biasing member is a spring having seven coils and is adjacent to the first horizontal support portion 23; the 5 second biasing member is a spring having seven coils and is adjacent to the second horizontal support portion 33; and the third biasing member is a spring having five coils, and is positioned between the first biasing member and the second biasing member.

10 In still a further embodiment each one of the first 53 and second tab portions 54 further comprise a tapered edge 57,58 extending adjacent the first jaw assembly 40. The tapered edge 57,58 abut the first jaw assembly 40 when the second jaw assembly 50 is pivoted to a maximum open position. The tapered edge 57,58 15 functions as a stop for the second jaw assembly 50.

In yet a further embodiment the lever portion 60 further comprises a first extent 61, a second extent 62, and a third extent 63. The first extent 61 is coupled to the coupling portion 51. The 20 first extent 61 extends downwardly from the coupling portion 51. The first extent 61 defines a maximum width between the first jaw assembly 40 and the width adjustment portion 66 of the second jaw assembly 50. The second extent 62 has an angular relationship to the first extent 61, and is coupled to the first extent 61. The third 25 extent 63 extends downwardly from the second extent 62. The third extent 63 abuts the surface of the structure 6 when the second jaw assembly 50 is in a closed portion. The third extent 63 provides a handle to be grasped by the user to facilitate removal of the tool 2 being retained from the system 10.

In an embodiment the first extent 61 tapers inwardly as it extends away from the coupling portion 51 towards the second extent 62. Put differently, the first extent 61 has a first width adjacent to the coupling portion 51, the first extent also has a second width adjacent to the second extent 62, and the first width is greater than the second width.

In still yet a further embodiment the width adjustment portion 66 further comprises a first retaining extent 67 and a second 10 retaining extent 68. The first retaining extent 67 is substantially parallel to the second extent 62 of the lever portion 60. The second retaining extent 68 is substantially parallel to the third extent 63 of the lever portion 60. The second retaining extent 68 is slidable along the third extent 63. Thus, a width of the second jaw 15 assembly 50 is adjustable. A lever aperture 64 extends through the third extent 63 of the lever portion 60; and a slot 69 extends along a longitudinal axis of the second retaining extent 68. A retaining member 70 extends through the slot 69 and the lever aperture 64. A tensioning member 71 is couplable to the retaining member 70 for 20 selectively securing the width adjustment portion 66 to the lever portion 60.

While the first extent 67 of the width adjustment portion 66 can function well having a variety of lengths, most preferably, it 25 has a length approximately 1/8 of an inch less than said second extent 62 of the lever portion 60. This feature allows the top edge of the first extent 67 of the width adjustment portion 66 to strike the underside of the first extent 61 of the lever portion 60 when the device is under tension. This contact transfers sufficient force to 30 inhibit the bending of the second extent 68 of the width adjustment

portion 66 under tension when the width adjustment portion 66 is positioned proximal to the first jaw assembly 40.

As to a further discussion of the manner of usage and
5 operation of the present invention, the same should be apparent
from the above description. Accordingly, no further discussion
relating to the manner of usage and operation will be provided.

With respect to the above description then, it is to be realized
10 that the optimum dimensional relationships for the parts of the
invention, to include variations in size, materials, shape, form,
function and manner of operation, assembly and use, are deemed
readily apparent and obvious to one skilled in the art, and all
equivalent relationships to those illustrated in the drawings and
15 described in the specification are intended to be encompassed by
the present invention.

Therefore, the foregoing is considered as illustrative only of
the principles of the invention. Further, since numerous
20 modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the
art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction
and operation shown and described, and accordingly, all suitable
modifications and equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the
scope of the invention.